

Dear Robert (and Wallace Wilam and Jim Cesar),

12/23/78

Several days ago we received a photo of three beautiful, happy children, or a woman beautiful enough to be their mother, and of a glowering scorpuss who just can't be part of it all. And the happiest kid (by nature) I remember still seems to be that happy, which is wonderful.

In today's mail, with the "parcel post" of the label not having been led out, despite the 12/8 postmark the welcome seven "ouw prints and slides and several other slides. (If the enhanced head X-rays can be picked up from the videotape that can have future importances.)

I'm sorry it took this long to receive prints because I would have liked to attach them to an affidavit I executed some time back.

The long delay since the time we spoke by Jerry's conference call, when I understood that you already had prints for me, leads me to believe that the importance of the legal precedent has not reached you.

In court I have won an order requiring the FBI to provide me with prints of all the Louw/Life (that's a pun, son) pictures. The "Department of Justice is appealing this for the FBI, which denied me prints. Life has offered them for \$1,200.00, after the initial denial, saying this is lower than what they have charged in the past. I have said that I want the pix for study only and that if I should later decide that I might to print one or two I would pay the going rate charged by wire services. Life refused to provide any proof of actual copyright, of the relevant correspondence for the court record or any sworn representation of any fact.

Originally the FBI swore it had no such pix of any kind. Then when I prodded and provided some proofs they got in touch with the Memphis Field Office, which managed to find the Louw shots and suggested to FBIHQ that there might be a copyright situation. (Not indicated on the prints.) FBIHQ got the hint and apparently gave the same idea to Life.

I can't exaggerate the importance of the decision Jim has won for us all. It means that copies of all the film have to be available to everyone, not just the "ouw shots. It means that wealthy corporations cannot again give the government pix it buys at high prices and deny access to others. It means that people can afford to buy and study such pictures.

It also means less to me personally than to almost anyone else, including you. I had a chance to study these pix in 1971, the day you followed me from the subway because I had a tail. Rather on that trip, not that day. I have notes on them. For any future writing I need no more. But I am trying to accomplish something for the common good.

I will want to file another affidavit on these pix. Jim, who has the film right now and thus is farthure behind that ever, may want to use prints before the appeals court. I don't know if it now can be done but I'd like to be in a position to do this. Ordinarily no evidence can be presented to that court that is not in the evidence of the lower court, district court. But we've done this before and may be able to again.

My guess is that for this Jim would need at least three prints, one for the court, one for the government and one for the case file. For the affidavit I know I need four, not counting a file copy for myself, which means five.

From what Wallace told me you got more than seven. I don't care what the subject matter is, that not being in question before the courts. But for the litigation it would be better if I could file a print of each one you got. From your copies or the negatives you've already made the copies should also be better than those Wallace had made commercially from the prints you gave him.

So what I'd like to ask is that you please make me say 10 shots of any convenient size (Wallace's are 5") of each and every print you got. I want these for court use only so you don't have to break your back in perfection, just the best and clearest possible with normal processing.

On the enlargements, however, where I would like to study, I'd like the best you

can do. I know how good this can be. Wallace included an enlargement of the face/neck on which I can't make out what for Jim and me would be important detail. Wallace also told me that you had studied such other things as the cuts on the trees that are down. The obvious interpretation is not justified by the rest of the facts, however, with regard to the cuts. Stay away from Lane's bag.

As you should now know, knowledge of the Bronson film comes from one of my law suits. I'm telling you there are other films that have not seen the light of day. It appears that the extensive coverage given to your work with the Bronson film has not encouraged others to come forward.

Even if it does, and even if all on which I have leads are included, the importance of this litigation will not be diminished. But will you please ask yourself if the chances of getting others will not be increased by having the precedent we have won pending appeal upheld on appeal?

I hope before the end of the year to complete going over records I obtained recently. If they have other such stuff now that the wraps are off of Earl, which nobody bothered to tell me, I'll let him know. I've invited him up to make his own search of those and of other files. He said he'd ask for an OK after he finished some Louisiana work. I've not heard from him since then.

"Meanwhile, I hope you will be able to do as I ask soon, as soon as your life permits. Let me know the cost and I'll send you a check. If you need it in advance please tell Jerry I'll pay him back and ask him to advance whatever you estimate it will be. If I speak to him I'll ask him.

I'm sorry that those without experience with the court cases refuse to consider that they exist or to realize their importance. If there were not these blind spots, if that is all they are, much could have been done that has not been done.

Hope you all have a good holiday and a good year and that this time next year, when I see the same beautiful faces and they are no less happy they have infected The Scowler.

Thanks and best,

I'm not reading and correcting because I'm due to return with a friend who can mail this in town and save a day. Only I'll not be able to hold her up - she'll have her own evening deal to prepare when she gets to her home. Excuse, but I know from the past you'll be able to make the typos out.